

July 24, 1944

Mr. J. J. Bloemfield, President,
American Industrial Hygiene Association,
National Institute of Health,
Bethesda 14, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Bloemfield:

I have considered your circular letter of June 13, with some misgivings. I am disposed to agree that there are certain difficulties associated with the meeting of so many organizations. Some of these made themselves apparent at the St. Louis meeting. Actually I would say that if we are to continue to run a series of concurrent programs, very little is to be gained by the joint meeting. On the other hand, if the A.I.H.A. and A.A.I.P. and N. were to make a carefully planned effort to work together in a coordinate manner rather than in a conjoined effort with respect to time and location, there could be a mutually advantageous situation. I personally feel that the cooperation of industrial physicians and industrial hygiene engineers is one of the most necessary attributes of any successful program in the general field of industrial hygiene. I have done everything I could do and I shall continue to do everything I can to effect a unity of spirit between these two groups of workers in the same field. I think all of us should do the same thing, and I can think of no personal and professional sacrifice on either side that is too great, if unity can be accomplished. Moreover, unless these two organizations can manage to go along together, it seems highly improbable that any sort of unity can be achieved within a reasonable period of time. For these reasons I seriously disapprove of any separation of meeting place and meeting time, without our making the concerted effort to eliminate certain apparent difficulties and to work cooperatively in the development of a satisfactory conference in 1945. I quite agree that separation from the A.A.I.P. and N. and the A.I.H.A. would simplify the problem of the meeting of the A.I.H.A. and N.C.O.I.A. However, I do not

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think that this simplification is as important as is the problem of the proper development of the general professional field of industrial hygiene in the United States. There is simply no sense whatever in the idea that either the doctor or the engineer can work independently in this field. Each will have to supplement the work of the other. In order to do this there must be a sympathetic understanding of mutual problems and there must be mutual respect without professional competition. That these ends can be achieved without reasonably frequent meetings and without an intermingling of programs, I for one, do not believe. Therefore, I place the future of American Industrial Hygiene in a much more prominent position than I do our own considerations as members of the A.I.H.A., from a point of view of convenience and self interest.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK of

C.C.: Dr. H. H. Schrenk
Professor Philip Drinker
Mr. E. C. Barnes
Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Dr. J. H. Sterner
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